

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**The Present Invention and the Pending Claims*

Claims 1-8, 10-13, and 15 are currently pending. Claims 1-8 and 15 are directed to a resin composition comprising a polyolefin resin (A), a metal soap (B), a saponified product (C) of an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, and a hydrotalcite compound and/or a hydrotalcite solid solution (D). Claims 10-13 are directed to a ground laminate composition comprising the aforesaid resin composition.

*Summary of the Claim Amendments*

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a saponified product (C) of an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having an ethylene content of 82-95 mol%, as supported by the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 24-29. Claims 9 and 14 have been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 1. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

*Summary of the Office Action*

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Iwanami et al. (U.S. Patent 4,954,557) in combination with Onishi et al. (EP 1,043,361). Claims 14 and 15 are objected to for depending on a rejected base claim. Reconsideration of the pending claims is hereby requested.

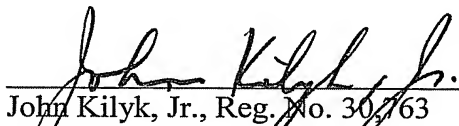
*Discussion of the Obviousness Rejection*

Claims 1-13 allegedly are obvious over Iwanami et al. in combination with Onishi et al. Claim 14 was not subject to the obviousness rejection in view of Iwanami et al. and Onishi et al. The elements of claim 14 have been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 and claims 2-8, 10-13, and 15 dependent thereon are unobvious in view of the cited references, and the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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